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PAGE 01 STATE 040286

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FOL REPEAT NEW DELHI 2779 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO COLOMBO
DACCA ISLAMABAD KABUL KATHMANDU MOSCOW CINCPAC RANGOON
PEKING BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS FEB 26

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2779

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDIA-PAKISTAN: THE FIVE YEAR PERSPECTIVE

SUMMARY: PAKISTAN'S RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH IMPROVES THE
SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS. BUT IT DOESN'T
CHANGE THE PROSPECT FOR FIVE YEARS HENCE, WHICH IS FOR LIMITED
DETENTE WITH CONTINUED SUSPICION. WE BELIEVE INDIA DOES WANT
GOOD RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, RECOGNIZES THAT FURTHER
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PAGE 02 STATE 040286

DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN WOULD NOT BE IN ITS INTEREST, AND

HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING MILITARY ACTION AGAINST PAKISTAN. BUT IT IS SUSPICIOUS OF BHUTTO'S INTENTIONS TOWARD INDIA, AND THUS OF HIS RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND THE OIL STATES OF THE PERSIAN GULF. INDIA WORRIES ABOUT THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF PAKISTAN IN A SHORT WAR, WHILE CONFIDENT OF ITS BASIC MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER PAKISTAN IN ANY PROLONGED CONFLICT. TRAVEL, COMMUNICATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PROBABLY WILL BE RESTORED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT TRADE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WILL PROVE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. KASHMIR WILL CONTINUE AS A BACKGROUND IRRITANT, AND FORCE REDUCTIONS ARE UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. INDIAN VIEW OF ITS ROLE: INDIA SAYS IT WANTS TO END CONFRONTATION WITH PAKISTAN. MRS. GANDHI WAS PROUD, AND WE BELIEVE SINCERE, IN EXPLAINING SHE RESISTED PRESSURES TO DESTROY PAKISTAN IN 1971. WE BELIEVE SHE WANTS DETENTE ON THE SUBCONTINENT AND SHE FEELS SHE MADE CONCESSIONS AT SIMLA TO ACHIEVE THIS. SHE ALSO INSISTS--PLAUSIBLY WE THINK--THAT FURTHER DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN WOULD NOT BE IN INDIA'S INTEREST. BUT NOW INDIANS BELIEVE THE BURDEN OF IMPROVING RELATIONS RESTS WITH PAKISTAN WHICH MUST ADJUST TO INDIAN POWER AND INFLUENCE.

2. INDIAN ASSESSMENT OF PAKISTAN: INDIANS ARE DOUBIOUS THAT PAKISTAN WILL MAKE SUCH AN ADJUSTMENT FOR A LONG TIME. CONFIDENCE IN BHUTTO'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS HAS WANED OVER THE PAST YEAR. BUT DIFFERENTLY, THE INDIANS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT PAKISTAN HAS NOT "LEARNED" THE LESSON OF DEFEAT IN 1971 AND ARE FRUSTRATED AT HAVING BEEN PUT ON THE DIPLOMATIC DEFENSIVE AGAIN AND AGAIN BY BHUTTO. THE INDIANS ARE LESS SURE THAT A "DEMOCRATIC" PAKISTAN WILL AUTOMATICALLY GET ALONG BETTER WITH INDIA THAN ONE DOMINATED BY A MILITARY OLIGARCHY. INDIA SEES POST-1971 PAKISTAN AS NOT MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR THAN PRE-1971 PAKISTAN IN BUILDING A STABLE SENSE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY DIVORCED FROM OPPOSITION TO INDIA, EVEN THOUGH PAKISTAN WITHOUT EAST PAKISTAN IS NOW A MUCH MORE COHESIVE REGION. SOME INDIVIDUAL INDIANS BELIEVE THIS GLOOMY PICTURE MAY CHANGE GRADUALLY IF PAKISTAN CAN GET AWAY FROM ITS "BACK AGAINST THE WALL" ATTITUDE. THEY SEE SIGNS OF WARMING ATTITUDES BY INDIVIDUALS IN PAKISTAN. BUT EVEN THESE INDIANS BELIEVE IT MAY TAKE MANY YEARS FOR THESE SLOW CHANGES TO SPREAD WIDELY AND TO AFFECT INDIA-PAKISTAN
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PAGE 03 STATE 040286

RELATIONS.

3. KASHMIR: CONCEIVABLY INDIA AND PAKISTAN COULD REACH A FINAL SETTLEMENT ON THE KASHMIR ISSUE. MUCH MORE LIKELY IS THAT THEY WILL LEAVE IT IN COLD STORAGE. THIS WOULD BE SIMPLIFIED IF BHUTTO INTEGRATED PAKISTANI-HELD KASHMIR INTO PAKISTAN WHILE INDIA REACHED AGREEMENT WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH. MOST LIKELY, HOWEVER, KASHMIR WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SPORADIC IRRITANT IN

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS FIVE OR EVEN TEN YEARS FROM NOW.

4. BANGLADESH: INDIA IS CONCERNED LEST PAKISTANI RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH LEAD TO A REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IN BANGLADESH'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS. WITH PAKISTAN AND CHINA BOTH ACTIVE IN DACCA, INDIA'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BANGLADESH WILL BE SORELY TESTED. INDIA IS RESIGNED TO THIS BUT HOPES BANGLADESH WILL NOT REVERSE ITS ATTITUDES TOWARD INDIA COMPLETELY. DEPENDING ON HOW PAKISTAN GOES ABOUT RENEWING AND BUILDING RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH, FRESH ABRASIVE ELEMENTS COULD BE INSERTED INTO INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS AND SUBCONTINENTAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL. NEVERTHELESS, SOME INDIANS ARGUE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN MAY REFOCUS PAKISTAN'S INTERESTS TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENT AND AWAY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH IS ALSO IN INDIA'S INTEREST. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR BUILDING A NEW SUBCONTINENTAL "ENTENTE" (WHICH FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNERS ENLARGE TO INCLUDE SRI LANKA, NEPAL AND POSSIBLY EVEN AFGHANISTAN AT SOME POINT).

5. THE PERCEIVED PAKISTANI THREAT: IN ADDITION TO BEING SUSPICIOUS OF PAKISTANI INTENTIONS, INDIANS STILL CONSIDER THE PAKISTAN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH TO HURT INDIA, AT LEAST IN A SHORT WAR. INDIA VIEWS WITH CONCERN PAKISTANI TIES TO CHINA--STILL SEEN AS THE MAIN THREAT TO INDIA--AND ITS DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM COUNTRIES OF THE PERSIAN GULF. THE LATTER POSE A PLAUSIBLE THREAT AS POTENTIAL FINANCIAL AND MILITARY BACKERS FOR PAKISTAN DURING A CRISIS AND AS STATES WHICH MIGHT TURN OFF CRITICAL OIL SUPPLIES TO INDIA AT PAKISTAN'S URGING DURING A WAR. IN A LONG WAR, INDIANS ACKNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM PAKISTAN BUT INSIST THAT SETBACKS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF ANY CONFLICT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO ANY INDIAN GOVERNMENT. HENCE
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PAGE 04 STATE 040286

INDIA MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER PAKISTAN AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME AND PLACE.

6. ARMS LIMITATION: REDUCTION IN ARMS EXPENDITURES AND/OR FORCE LEVELS WOULD RESULT IN MAJOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. THE GOI HAS CAREFULLY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OF SUCH REDUCTION AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T MEAN PARITY BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. BUT DISTRUST ON BOTH SIDES MAKES MORE THAN TOKEN REDUCTIONS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. INDIAN FEAR THAT PERSIAN GULF ARMS MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO PAKISTAN COMPLICATES ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. INDIAN MUSINGS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM ARE EVIDENT IN AMBASSADOR KAUL'S AMBITIOUS SCHEME FOR INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL COOPERATION (STATE 037015). AT THE SAME TIME INDIA ARGUES THAT THE CHINESE THREAT FORCES IT TO MAINTAIN

A HIGH LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS. INDIANS DO NOT ANTICIPATE NORMALIZ-
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